

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A stackable substrate carrying tray on which a substrate is placed horizontally, so as to be separated from an upper stacked substrate carrying tray, comprising:

an upper contact section; and

a lower contact section,

the upper contact section contacting, by areal contact, a first substrate carrying tray which is stacked above said substrate carrying tray with the substrate placed thereon and the lower contact section contacting, by areal contact, a second substrate carrying tray which is stacked below said substrate carrying tray with the substrate placed thereon,

the upper and lower contact sections being formed in a shape so as to move, when the first stackable substrate carrying tray is stacked above said substrate carrying tray, the first substrate carrying tray in such a direction that a center of gravity of the first substrate carrying tray is positioned vertically above a center of gravity of said substrate carrying tray.

2. (Currently amended) A stackable substrate carrying tray on which a substrate is placed horizontally, so as to be separated from an upper stacked substrate carrying tray, comprising:

an upper contact section; and

a lower contact section,

the upper contact section contacting, by areal contact, a first substrate carrying tray which is stacked above said substrate carrying tray with the substrate placed thereon and the lower contact section contacting, by areal contact, a second substrate carrying tray which is stacked below said substrate carrying tray with the substrate placed thereon,

the upper contact section including an upper inclined section, for the areal contact, which is inclined inwardly or outwardly in said substrate carrying tray, and

the lower contact section including a lower inclined section, for the areal contact, which has a same inclined direction as that of the upper inclined section.

3. (Original) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein the upper and lower contact sections are disposed on a peripheral edge of the substrate carrying tray.

4. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein:

the upper inclined section is provided entirely on an upper surface of the upper contact section, and

the lower inclined section is provided entirely on a lower surface of the lower contact section.

5. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein:

the upper inclined section is provided on a portion including an outer edge or inner edge of an upper surface of the upper contact section, and

the lower inclined section is provided on a portion of the lower contact section, the portion including an edge corresponding to an edge on which the upper inclined section is disposed.

6. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the upper and lower inclined sections are inclined in a plane manner.

7. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the upper and lower inclined sections are inclined in such a curved manner that a gradient is downwardly moderate.

8. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein the upper and lower inclined sections have an identical shape at respective contact portions.

9. (Original) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 3, wherein the upper and lower contact sections are different from a protrusion that engages a chuck for catching the tray.

10. (Original) The substrate carrying tray according to claim 3, wherein:
the tray includes a protrusion that engages a chuck for catching the tray, the protrusion outwardly protruding from an outer edge surface of the peripheral edge of the tray,
the outer edge surface is formed, in a plane manner, in such a direction that becomes a vertical direction when the tray is placed horizontally, and
the upper and lower contact sections are provided inwardly from the outer edge surface.

11. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 3, wherein:

the upper inclined section is provided entirely on an upper surface of the upper contact section, and

the lower inclined section is provided entirely on a lower surface of the lower contact section.

12. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 3, wherein:

the upper inclined section is provided on a portion including an outer edge or inner edge of an upper surface of the upper contact section, and

the lower inclined section is provided on a portion of the lower contact section, the portion including an edge corresponding to an edge on which the upper inclined section is disposed.

13. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the upper and lower inclined sections are inclined in a plane manner.

14. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the upper and lower inclined sections are inclined in such a curved manner that a gradient is downwardly moderate.

15. (Previously Presented) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 3, wherein the upper and lower inclined sections have an identical shape at respective contact portions.

16. (New) A stackable substrate carrying tray on which a substrate is placed horizontally, so as to be separated from an upper stacked substrate carrying tray, comprising:

an upper contact section; and

a lower contact section,

the upper contact section contacting, by areal contact, a first substrate carrying tray which is stacked above said substrate carrying tray with the substrate placed thereon and the lower contact section contacting, by areal contact, a second substrate carrying tray which is stacked below said substrate carrying tray with the substrate placed thereon,

the upper contact section including an upper inclined section, for the areal contact, which is inclined inwardly or outwardly in said substrate carrying tray, and

the lower contact section including a lower inclined section, for the areal contact, which has a contrary inclined direction as that of the upper inclined section.

17. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 1, wherein the substrate carrying tray has such a shape that the first substrate carrying tray is not in contact with the substrate when the substrate is placed on said carrying tray.

18. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein the substrate carrying tray has such a shape that the first substrate carrying tray is not in contact with the substrate when the substrate is placed on said carrying tray.

19. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 16, wherein the substrate carrying tray has such a shape that the first substrate carrying tray is not in contact with the substrate when the substrate is placed on said carrying tray.

20. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 1, wherein the substrate carrying tray has such a shape that there is a space between a lower end of the first substrate carrying tray and an upper end of the substrate when the substrate is placed on said substrate carrying tray.

21. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein the substrate carrying tray has such a shape that there is a space between a lower end of the first substrate carrying tray and an upper end of the substrate when the substrate is placed on said substrate carrying tray.

22. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 16, wherein the substrate carrying tray has such a shape that there is a space between a lower end of the first substrate carrying tray and an upper end of the substrate when the substrate is placed on said substrate carrying tray.

23. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 1, further including:
a loading bed for loading the substrate and
a frame provided to surround an outer edge of the loading bed, wherein the upper and lower contact sections are formed on the frame.

24. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, further including:
a loading bed for loading the substrate and
a frame provided to surround an outer edge of the loading bed, wherein the upper and lower contact sections are formed on the frame.

25. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 16, further including:
a loading bed for loading the substrate and
a frame provided to surround an outer edge of the loading bed, wherein the upper and lower contact sections are formed on the frame.

26. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 23, wherein the upper and lower contact sections each has such a shape that a space inside the frame is an enclosed space when the plural substrate carrying trays are stacked on each other.

27. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 24, wherein the upper and lower contact sections each has such a shape that a space inside the frame is an enclosed space when the plural substrate carrying trays are stacked on each other.

28. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 25, wherein the upper and lower contact sections each has such a shape that a space inside the frame is an enclosed space when the plural substrate carrying trays are stacked on each other.

29. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 23, wherein the loading bed includes a frame section whose inner perimeter is larger than an outer perimeter of the substrate.

30. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 24, wherein the loading bed includes a frame section whose inner perimeter is larger than an outer perimeter of the substrate.

31. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 25, wherein the loading bed includes a frame section whose inner perimeter is larger than an outer perimeter of the substrate.

32. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 29, wherein the frame section of the loading bed has such a shape that the first substrate carrying tray is not in contact with the substrate when the substrate is placed on said substrate carrying tray.

33. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 30, wherein the frame section of the loading bed has such a shape that the first substrate carrying tray is not in contact with the substrate when the substrate is placed on said substrate carrying tray.

34. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 31, wherein the frame section of the loading bed has such a shape that the first substrate carrying tray is not in contact

with the substrate when the substrate is placed on said substrate carrying tray.

35. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 29, wherein the frame section of the loading bed has such a shape that there is a space between a lower end of the first substrate carrying tray and an upper end of the frame section.

36. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 30, wherein the frame section of the loading bed has such a shape that there is a space between a lower end of the first substrate carrying tray and an upper end of the frame section.

37. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 31, wherein the frame section of the loading bed has such a shape that there is a space between a lower end of the first substrate carrying tray and an upper end of the frame section.

38. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 29, wherein an upper end of the frame section of the loading bed is lower than an upper end of the upper contact section and higher than an upper end of the substrate placed on the substrate carrying tray.

39. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 30, wherein an upper end of the frame section of the loading bed is lower than an upper end of the upper contact section and higher than an upper end of the substrate placed on the substrate carrying tray.

40. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 31, wherein an upper end of the frame section of the loading bed is lower than an upper end of the upper contact section and higher than an upper end of the substrate placed on the substrate carrying tray.

41. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 1, wherein the upper and lower contact sections each has such a shape that the upper and lower contact sections, connected to each other, constitute a post which extends vertically when the plural substrate carrying trays are stacked on each other.

42. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein the upper and lower contact sections each has such a shape that the upper and lower contact sections, connected to each other, constitute a post which extends vertically when the plural substrate carrying trays are stacked on each other.

43. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 16, wherein the upper and lower contact sections each has such a shape that the upper and lower contact sections, connected to each other, constitute a post which extends vertically when the plural substrate carrying trays are stacked on each other.

44. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 1, wherein two or more substrates can be vertically placed and carried by a structure that three or more stackable substrate carrying trays are stacked.

45. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein two or more substrates can be vertically placed and carried by a structure that three or more stackable substrate carrying trays are stacked.

46. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 16, wherein two or

more substrates can be vertically placed and carried by a structure that three or more stackable substrate carrying trays are stacked.

47. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 1, wherein the upper contact section contacting the first substrate carrying tray which is stacked above said substrate carrying tray by only an angled portion of the upper contact section and the lower contact section contacting the second substrate carrying tray which is stacked below said substrate carrying tray by only an angled portion of the lower contact section, and

wherein the angled portion of the upper contact section and the angled portion of the lower contact section have equal width and the same inclination.

48. (New) The stackable substrate carrying tray according to claim 2, wherein the upper contact section contacting the first substrate carrying tray which is stacked above said substrate carrying tray by only the surface of the upper contact section and the lower contact section contacting the second substrate carrying tray which is stacked below said substrate carrying tray by only the surface of the lower contact section, and

wherein the surface of the upper contact section and the surface of the lower contact section have the same surface area, the same shape, and the same inclination.